

Message Text

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ACTION DLOS-09

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E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: PLOS, ID
SUBJECT: GOI REACTIONS TO LOS STATEMENTS BY AMBASSADOR RICHARDSON

REF: STATE 12946

1. SPEAKING INFORMALLY WITH PRESS ON JANUARY 18 ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER AND CHIEF OF INDONESIAN LAW OF THE SEA DELEGATION MOCHTAR KUSUMAATMADJA WELCOMED "INDICATIONS THAT US WILL ATTEND THE SEVENTH SESSION OF THE LAW OF THE SEA CONFERENCE". MOCHTAR SAID THIS REPRESENTED A CHANGE IN U.S. ATTITUDE WHICH HE ATTRIBUTED IN PART TO REALIZATION THAT LOS TREATY OFFERED U.S. "ADEQUATE GUARANTEES" ON STRAITS PASSAGE. MOCHTAR THEN REVIEWED U.S. OBJECTIONS WITH ICNT ARTICLES ON SEABEDS EXPLOITATION. HE SINGLED OUT LAND LOCKED AND GEOGRAPHICALLY DISADVANTAGED STATES' EFFORTS TO OBTAIN RIGHTS IN ECONOMIC ZONES AS ANOTHER ISSUE WHICH MIGHT BLOCK CONFERENCE SINCE THESE STATES CONSTITUTED OVER ONE-THIRD CONFERENCE MEMBERSHIP.

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2. CHIEF OF FOREIGN DEPARTMENT LEGAL DIRECTORATE HASJIM DJALAL TOLD POLCOUNSELOR ON JAN 20 THAT MOCHTAR'S REMARKS WERE PARTLY IN RESPONSE TO AMBASSADOR RICHARDSON'S COMMENTS IN INTERVIEW WITH IPS STAFF CORRESPONDENT MUIR, WHICH WE HAD FURNISHED FONDEPT. AFTER READING AMBASSADOR RICHARDSON'S STATEMENT BEFORE THE CINCINNATI CONFERENCE OF THE NAVY LEAGUE (WHICH WE HAVE ALSO SENT TO MOCHTAR), DJALAL

REPEATED THAT GOI WAS VERY PLEASED U.S. WOULD PARTICIPATE IN NEXT LOS SESSION AND FOUND OVERALL ATMOSPHERE HAD IMPROVED MARKEDLY OVER PAST FEW MONTHS. HE ADDED THAT GOI BELIEVED PRODEDURAL MEANS WORKED OUT TO LIMIT COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN'S ROLES WERE "TECHNICALLY CORRECT" AND HOPES THEY WOULD PROVE TO BE POLITICALLY EFFICACIOUS.

3. NOTING THAT HE MIGHT HAVE FURTHER COMMENT ON CIN-CINNATI SPEECH WHEN HE HAD STUDIED IT FURTHER, DJALAL TOOK EXCEPTION TO AMBASSADOR RICHARDSON'S STATEMENT THAT SEABED PRODUCTION WOULD NOT SIGNIFICANTLY AFFECT WORLD COPPER SITUATION, ARGUING THAT COPPER OBTAINED FROM NODULES WOULD NOT BE THROWN BACK INTO SEA AND EVEN IF NOT MARKETED, WOULD CONSTITUTE STOCKPILE AFFECTING FUTURE MARKET CONDITIONS. CITING STATISTICS OBTAINED FROM INCO AND CANADIANS WHICH INDICATED LAND BASED NICKEL WOULD SATISFY WORLD'S NEEDS THROUGHOUT THIS CENTURY, DJALAL ALSO WONDERED WHETHER U.S. INTENDED TO SUBSIDIZE SEABED EXPLOITATION OF THIS MINERAL FOR SECURITY PURPOSES. POLCOUNSELOR POINTED OUT THAT U.S. ALREADY HAD ADEQUATE STRATEGIC STOCKPILE SYSTEM AND NOTED THAT AMBASSADOR RICHARDSON HAD CLEARLY SPELLED OUT ECONOMIC RATIONAL FOR SEABEDS EXPLOITATION.

4. IMPORTANCE INDONESIA PLACED ON LOS CONFERENCE WAS ILLUSTRATED, JALAL SAID, BY FACT GOI IS SERIOUSLY CONSIDERING SENDING MOCHTAR TO HEAD ITS DELEGATION TO BOTH LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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NEW YORK INTERSESSIONAL MEETING AND GENEVA SESSION ALTHOUGH THIS WOULD LEAVE BOTH FOREIGN AND JUSTICE DEPARTMENTS WITHOUT A MINISTER FOR EXTENDED PERIOD (MOCHTAR ALSO INDICATED TO AMBASSADOR HE MIGHT ATTEND THESE MEETINGS. FINAL COMPOSITION OF DELEGATION WAS NOT YET DETERMINED, JALAL, ADDED, BUT HE AND TWO REPRESENTATIVES FROM MINES DEPARTMENT (HARSONO FOR OIL AND ARMAN FOR OTHER MINERALS) WOULD PROBABLY BE ONLY JAKARTA REPRESENTATIVES BESIDES MOCHTAR TO ATTEND INTERSESSIONAL. MASTERS

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